

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8680

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0030

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MR, MO, FR, PBOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH'S SPEECH TO PARTY MILITANTS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED - SUMMARY: PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH IN ROUSING APPEAL TO PATRIOTIC INSTINCTS CALLED UPON ALL MAURITANIANS TO TIGHTEN BELT IN SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PROTECT COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL INTEGRITY. HE WARNED GOVERNMENT AND PARTY FUNCTIONARIES TO SHAPE UP OR ELSE... HE PRAISED MOROCCAN AND FRENCH ASSISTANCE, CALLING MOROCCANS "BROTHERS, FRIENDS AND ALLIES" AND LAUDING POSITIVE FRENCH RESPONSE TO MAURITANIA'S CALL TO HELP MAURITANIA DEFEND ITSELF. END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE PPM (MAURITANIAN PEOPLES PARTY) ON OCCASION OF PARTY'S 16TH ANNIVERSARY, MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH ON DECEMBER 31 DELIVERED A "WE'RE-A-NATION-AT-WAR" SPEECH BEFORE AN ENTHUSIAS-
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TICALLY RECEPTIVE AUDIENCE OF PARTY FAITHFUL. HIS RINGING STATEMENT THAT MAURITANIAN PEOPLE WILL NEVER ACCEPT EITHER HUMILIATION OR DEFEAT AND WILL NEVER KNEEL BEFORE THE ALGERIAN LEADERS EVOKED RAFTER RATTLING CHEERS. HIS CALL FOR SACRIFICES WAS UNUSUALLY BLUNT AND IT SINGLED OUT THE "DIRECTORS OF THE DIRECTORS" WHO ARE AND MUST COMPORT THEMSELVES AS SLAVES OF THE MASSES. NO MATTER WHAT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE WE MUST ASK FOR, IN THE FINAL

ANALYSIS OUR FATE WILL BE DECIDED BY WHAT WE DO OURSELVES.
"WE MUST RENOUNCE THE EASY-GOING SPIRIT THAT WE HAVE ADOPTED
THESE LAST YEARS... AND MODIFY OUR THINKING... EVEN THE BEST
OF STRUCTURES WILL NOT ADVANCE PROGRESS IF THEY ARE NOT MANNED
BY OFFICIALS WILLING TO SACRIFICE AND CAPABLE OF ABNEGATION,
HUMILITY AND OF RECOGNIZING THAT THEY ARE NOTHING WITHOUT THE
PEOPLE WHOM THEY SERVE..." OFFICIALS MUST PARTICIPATE IN THIS
SPIRIT AT ANY PRICE, HE ADDED, BECAUSE THOSE WHO DO NOT ADAPT
TO THIS NEW SITUATION, WILL BE LEFT BEHIND AND SHOULD EXPECT TO
BE RELIEVED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. WE ARE THE GENERATION OF
TRANSITION. WE MUST WORK SO THAT THE DIFFICULTIES WE KNOW SO
WELL WILL NEVER BE KNOWN BY OUR CHILDREN OR AT LEAST OUR GRAND-
CHILDREN. HE CHARACTERIZED MAURITANIA AS A BI-ETHNIC NATION
WITH DIFFERENT COMPLEMENTARY CIVILIZATIONS THAT GAINS STRENGTH
FROM ITS DIVERSITY.

3. PRESIDENT SPOKE AT GREAT LENGTH ABOUT ASSISTANCE OFFERED
BY ALLIES AND FRIENDS, CITING FIRST MOROCCANS WHO, AFTER A LONG
SEPARATION OWING TO "A MISUNDERSTANDING NOW BELONGING TO HISTORY",
HAVE BECOME BROTHERS, FRIENDS AND ALLIES, AND SECONDLY "AN
ASSISTANCE OF MUCH LESS MAGNITUDE OF A FORMER COLONIZER... FRANCE".
HE DELICATELY RATIONALIZED THE NECESSITY FOR FRENCH SUPPORT
AND EXPLAINED WHY THIS WAS NOT A CONTRADICTION OF EARLIER MAURI-
TANIAN ACTIONS RENOUNCING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH
FRENCH. HE SAID THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF PROTECTING INDEPENDENCE
SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGNITY, WHICH WAS THE UNDERLYING MOTIVE FOR
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REJECTION OF CLOSE FRENCH MILITARY TIES IN 1960'S IS STILL
SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT TO WARRANT ADOPTION OF CLOSE TIES TO
FRANCE IN 1977. HE EMPHASIZED THAT FRANCE HAD RESPONDED TO
MAURITANIA'S APPEAL, "NOT TO DEFEND US, BUT TO HELP US DEFEND
OURSELVES AND THE NUANCE IS IMPORTANT". THE AMBIVALENT FEELINGS
WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE RECENT DECISION TO ACCEPT FRENCH ASSIS-
TANCE HOWEVER WERE WELL ILLUSTRATED BY THE PRESIDENT'S COMPLI-
MENTING THE FRENCH FOR HAVING HAD THE FINESSE AND PSYCHOLOGY TO
NOT, REPEAT NOT, POINT OUT THAT THE MAURITANIANS "SHOWED
THEM TO THE DOOR" WHEN THEY WERE NOT NEEDED, BUT "HELD OUT THEIR
HANDS" WHEN THEY WERE. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE WITHOUT NOTES FOR
ONE HOUR IN FRENCH, THEN PROCEEDED TO REPEAT AND EMBELLISH
ADDRESS FOR 1-1/2 HOURS IN ARABIC. DELIVERY WAS FORCEFUL.

4. SPEECH TWICE MADE REFERENCE TO ALGERIAN PLANS TO "ELIMINATE
MAURITANIA FROM THE MAP OF THE WORLD", AN EXPLICIT REFERENCE
TO THE WIDELY HELD MAURITANIA BELIEF THAT THE GOAL OF ALGERIAN
AGGRESSION IS TO OVERTHROW THE MAURITANIA GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO
EMPHASIZED THE TRIPLE PROBLEM OF THE WAR, DROUGHT AND WORLD-WIDE
INFLATION, ALLUDING TO FORTHCOMING ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DIFFI-
CULTIES AND MORE BELT TIGHTENING. END UNCLASSIFIED

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. OULD DADDAH HAS OBVIOUSLY TAKEN A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO EXPRESS IN PUBLIC THE SAME BELIEFS HE COMMUNICATES PRIVATELY, EXCEPT FOR ACTUALLY NAMING THE SOVIETS AS THE ARCH VILLAIN. ACCORDING TO SOURCE CLSE TO PRESIDENT, HE DELIBERATELY DID NOT MAKE ANY REFERENCE IN SPEECH TO IMPORTANT SAUDI AND KUWAITI ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO AVOID CAUSING EMBARRASSMENT TO THESE NATIONS IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH ALGERIA AND ITS ALLIES. HE SPENT MOST OF SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING CLOSETED WITH CLOSE ADVISORS, THUS ADDING FUEL TO RUMORS OF DRASTIC REORGANIZATION OF CABINET. HE LEFT EARLY SUNDAY TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF EMIR OF KUWAIT. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT CABINET WILL BE REORGANIZED AND POSSIBLY RESHUFFLED. END CONFIDENTIAL.

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